WILDCAT #19

Monthly Newsletter of the IWW

November 2021

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Brewery Workers Union Launch

We are proud to announce the formation of the Brewery Workers Union! After years of organising in breweries we thought it was finally time to make it official.

What is it?

Bringing together current and ex-brewery workers to create a network of support, workplace organisation, solidarity, training and necessary legal advice and aid. As part of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) union. The Brewery Workers Union will build on skills and experience gained from the IWW's members and officers, whether they work in a brewery setting or not.

Why do we need a union?

As the interest in and sales of craft beer has risen significantly in the past 10 years it has also meant more workers are being exploited, suffering harassment and abuse, working in unsafe conditions, working long and unsociable hours leading to serious injuries all on insufficient pay, leading to physical & mental strain, burnout and fatigue.

We have seen the ongoing issues with BrewDog and a wealth of other breweries in the UK, as well as active organising from other trade unions, in the US and across Europe. We feel the time is right to form the Brewery Workers Union in line with the aims and code of the IWW. We have organised in breweries and supported brewery workers in London for many years and we are sick and tired of seeing workers being exploited. Now is the time to act!

How are we going to make breweries better places to work?

We aim to build on the networks we have – workers, reps, officers, legal teams and activists whilst working alongside other trade unions and activist groups to support and build solidarity with brewery workers.

We will be organising workplaces, providing training on your legal rights including health and safety, contracts, grievances & disciplinaries as well as organising social events, running rep training sessions and so much more.

The London IWW meets weekly at our offices in May Day Rooms for drop-ins, planning, organising and more. The Brewery Workers Union currently meets once a month. Brewery Health & Safety Training will be held on 30th November 2021 in person and online. Please email or message us for more info.

We are a member-led union and rely on the mutual support and input from our members, officers and activists.

If you have any issues at work or would like to find out more:

Email us at:
breweryworkers@iww.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @BreweryUnion

IWW Cymru: SOLIDARITY GETS THE GOODS!

On Saturday the 16th IWW Cymru members held an informational picket outside a cafe in Dolgellau, Gwynedd.

The management had ignored multiple requests by an ex-worker for their P45.

The worker urgently needed this P45 to be able to claim benefits in their home country. This was having a real, negative impact on their life.

The worker decided to get their union, the IWW, involved.

The employer promised to help "after lockdown" before ignoring our subsequent correspondence and Subject Access Request.

We decided to pay the cafe a visit.

IWW members held an informational picket, informing potential customers of the situation and asking them not to go to the cafe until the dispute was settled.

The employer soon did so and hastily issued a P45 for the worker.

Employers too often think they can get away with mistreating workers, especially migrant workers.

The IWW, a DIY union, believes in solidarity and standing up to the bosses.

Together we can win! An injury to one is an injury to all!

IWW Cymru
iww.org.uk/cymru

IWW Cymru: SOLIDARIAETH – BUDDUGOLIAETH!

Ar ddydd Sadwrn y 16eg mi ddaliodd aelodau IWW Cymru biced gwybodaeth tu allan i gaffi yn Nolgellau, Gwynedd.

Roedd y perchnogion wedi anwybyddu sawl ofyniad gan gyn-weithiwr am ei P45. Roedd angen y P45 ar y gweithiwr ar frys er mwyn gallu hawlio benefits yn ei wlad enedigol. Roedd hyn yn cael effaith go iawn negyddol ar ei fywyd.

Penderfynodd y gweithiwr i siarad a'i undeb, yr IWW. Mi wnaeth y cyflogwr addo i helpu "ar ôl lockdown" ac yna anwybyddodd ein llythyrau a Chais Gwrthrych am Wybodaeth. Penderfyonon ni ymweld â'r caffi.

Daliodd aelodau o'r IWW biced gwybodaeth, gan roi gwybod i gwsmeriaid posib am y sefyllfa a gofyn iddynt beidio â mynd i'r caffi nes i'r anghytundeb cael ei setlo. Yn fuan mi ddewisodd y cyflogwr setlo a darparu P45 i'r gweithiwr.

Yn rhy aml mae cyflogwyr yn meddwl y gallant gamdrin gweithwyr, yn enwedig gweithwyr o dramor. Mae'r IWW yn undeb ar lawr gwlad sy'n credu mewn solidariaeth a sefyll yn erbyn y bosys. Gyda'n gilydd fe allwn ennill!

MAE ANAF I UN YN ANAF I BAWB

BLOOD MONEY CAMPAIGN

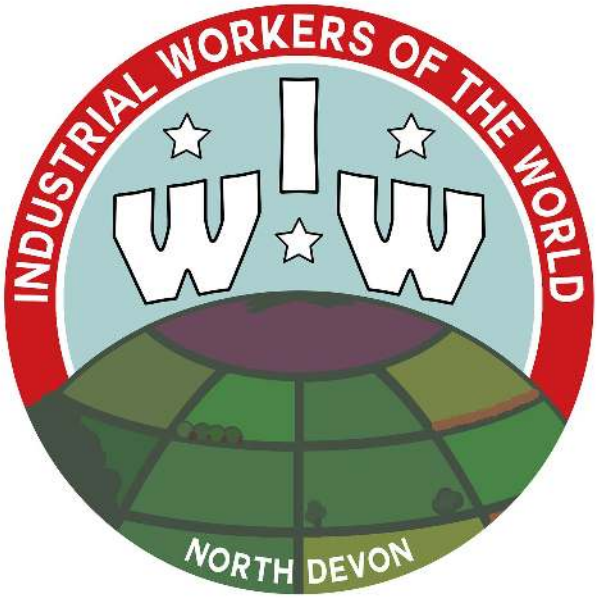
As part of the Global Week of Action against Oil & Gas industry (Oct. 25 – 31st, 2021) members of the Industrial Workers of the World, as part of the ICL-CIT led actions, took part in solidarity actions in Dublin, Ireland with members of the Burmese community.

Following the week of action in September coordinators of the Blood Money campaign decided to call for another week of action in October. This time with the focus on the oil and gas industry.

Global Call Theme:Freeze Payments To Junta and Save Myanmar
#BloodMoneyMyanmar #FreezePaymentsToJunta #SanctionMOGE
#Total_StopSponsoringSAC #Chevron_StopSponsoringSAC
#BloodMoneyCampaignMM
For more information: globalmayday.net

IWW.ORG.UK/CYMRU

LIGHTING FIRES OUT IN THE STICKS DIARY #3



New North Devon IWW logo: *Building from the Grassroots!*

This is an ongoing diary from a wobbly starting to grow the union in North Devon.

In previous entries I wrote about my work as a part-time cleaner in two workplaces where, despite several objective challenges to organising, I have had a little bit of success.

This, along with a bit of leafletting, had been the main focus of my organising but it was quite difficult all by myself.

In early September I was greatly relieved to meet up with four other local IWW members, new and long-standing.

From that gathering we agreed to stay in contact regularly to ramp up the effort here in North Devon! This includes, in the main, supporting a fellow worker (FW) to organise at their pub-restaurant in a local coastal village.

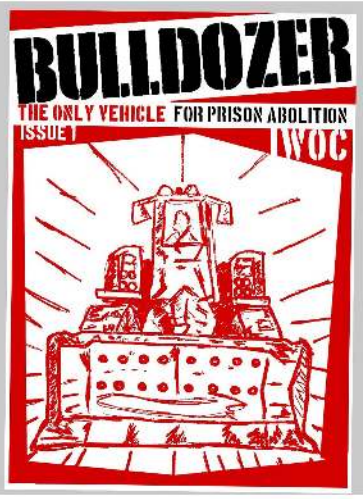
Despite being a new member with no training (yet), they are doing excellently; forging relationships, learning the main grievances, and gradually nudging their colleagues towards taking action.

By the time this newsletter goes out, we will have met again to talk to another local FW about how the IWW can be a useful tool for outdoor educators, and we will have begun strategizing about breaking into hospitality/tourism and social care, which are significant sectors in the region.

Writing personally, all this has been very uplifting to see after several months of slogging it out myself.

I am very enthusiastic, optimistic, and excited about how things are going!

In solidarity,
Wobbly in North Devon



Prisoner Solidarity!

Bulldozer is produced by members of the Industrial Workers of the World's (IWW) Incarcerated Workers Organising Committee (IWOC) Ireland with a contribution from Prisoner Solidarity Network.

Bulldozer is free to prisoners or with a donation to fellow workers to help continue this important project at this time.

You can write to:

Bulldozer
c/o IWOC Ireland
P.O. Box 346,
Derry, BT48 4FZ, North Ireland.

Ireland: Zapatista Tour

During the Zapatista delegation's tour of Ireland, IWW representatives attended a workshop on "Labour struggles in and beyond capitalism". The Zapatistas are a libertarian indigenous people group from Chiapas in Mexico. Since their 1994 revolution, they have maintained an anti-capitalist rural society. Whilst their struggle is not fully recognised by the Mexican government (whom the Zapatistas refer to as 'the bad government'), international solidarity from comrades has encouraged them in their cause.

On their tour of Ireland, the Zapatistas spent time in the south, before dividing into two groups; one heading to the north of Ireland and Scotland, and the other heading to Wales and England. On their last day in Dublin, they hosted two speaking and listening sessions with a translator.

Sitting with them in Dublin, they ask simple questions which require lots of thought; "how do you organise across your cities?", "how can you work together within your different organisations?", "how do you show each other solidarity?".

Each representative has different answers. As a global solidarity union, IWW members can relate to the need for supporting the international community. We share experiences from the recent Blood Money campaign and how incarcerated workers in the north of Ireland issued a solidarity statement with the garment workers in Myanmar. Another comrade contextualises how solidarity practice can only work when the connections between struggles are made explicit. "We live in a world like the one of your 'bad government'. There are many people who see the problems. There are few who see how all the problems are connected," they say.

In telling their stories to a room full of comrades, they act as role models and challengers to how we organise in and across Ireland. There is so much work to be done, so much solidarity to show. There is a housing crisis. There is so much wage theft. There are so many people in precarious work. The poisoning of the rivers and seas is deadly.

Yet, here is an example of a world built within ours that is striving forwards. Someone calls the Zapatistas a light, but they rebut that their light is our light. That is the whole point, they say, "organise, together".

Hannah
IWW Ireland Branch

Violent Police Crackdown on #KillTheBill Protest in Newcastle

In recent years, Newcastle has been a hub for protest action in the North East of England. Most of these protests have ended positively, but a Kill the Bill protest held in May ended with several arrests; those arrested are due to appear in court soon.

Iain, the Northumbria IWW Secretary, was at the protest and had the following to say:

"A protestor on Grey's Monument was inviting people to come up and chalk what Kill The Bill and protesting against it meant to them; police took this as an excuse to manhandle teenagers, taking them to waiting vans resulting in a standoff between protesters and police, thus turning a 'peaceful protest' into one of indignation.

"All because someone wrote a message, in chalk, on the base of a statue, something for which the police can and will arrest you, itself an indication of the overreaching powers we want to stop. According to eyewitness accounts, those arrested were held in police custody for several hours and only released early the next morning."

ResistNCL reported similar treatment of the minors who were arrested, some of whom were *"held in a cell for over 10 hours"* with many protesters being *"rugby tackled and pinned to the ground."* Videos of these arrests and the full statement made by ResistNCL can be found **here.**

This level of violent and aggressive tactics by Northumbria Police is becoming more common in recent months due to an increase in protests surrounding the Kill the Bill, Black Lives Matter and the Abolish Hassockfield Detention Centre movements.

It demonstrates explicitly how Northumbria Police, together with the police worldwide, are in the pockets of the rich and powerful, preferring to protect the interests of the state rather than those protesting against rising authoritarianism.

Recently, some protesters have seen cases against them being dropped; it's obvious that fear tactics are the main reason for such arrests.

Northumbria IWW Branch stands united in solidarity with those affected by the brutal capitalist police and the state that they serve.

If you wish to support those who are due to appear in court, you can donate to the gofundme **here**.

Updates on the cases can be seen on Resist NCL's twitter account **here**.

Solidarity forever,
Don, Northumbria IWW

WILDCAT

IF YOU HAVE A NEWS STORY FROM YOUR AREA THEN WE NEED TO KNOW IT TOO!

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS EMAIL WILDCAT HERE:

newsletter@iww.org.uk

ANGRY WORKERS TALK IN MANCHESTER

In the first part of the meeting, we will present our experiences of six years of political organising amongst largely migrant workers in warehouses and factories in west London.

We have documented these experiences in our book Class Power on Zero-Hours. We will talk about the potentials and limitations of solidarity networks, and self-organised activities on the job and work within the mainstream trade unions.

We will also talk briefly about the political ideas behind our decision to focus on the industrial areas and logistics hubs in west London: workers' inquiry and political autonomy.

In the second part we will talk about revolution and working-class emancipation. We want to throw up some ideas about the features of capitalism which make a fundamental change of society not only necessary, but possible.

We want to talk about the separations within the different movements today and ask ourselves how we can support the revolutionary tendencies within them.

In the third part we want to talk about Manchester and what we can do here, as a group.

We want to hear about your experiences and share some ideas about how to get rooted within the class, support struggles and discuss the wider social situation in which they take place.

Where **'fire and re-hire'** clashes with post-Brexit labour shortages, and where small steps of workers' control during the Covid crisis clash with the top-down way that most strikes are organised.

Angry Workers Talk

The talk will be on 7th November at 16:00 at Partisan Collective.

Unit 2, New Islington Mill, Regent Trading Estate, Oldfield Road, Salford M5 4D**E.**